

Appln No. 10/688,712

Amdt date January 10, 2005

Reply to Office action of December 9, 2004

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Original) A method of determining the coaptation axis of a valve, comprising the steps of:

positioning a device within the valve, the device moveable in response to opening and closing of the valve; and

observing the device when the valve is closed, to determine the orientation of the coaptation axis.

2. (Original) A method of determining the coaptation axis of a valve as in Claim 1, wherein the positioning step comprises transluminally positioning.

3. (Original) A method of determining the coaptation axis of a valve as in Claim 2, comprising the steps of transluminally advancing the device through the aortic valve and into the mitral valve.

4. (Original) A method of determining the coaptation axis of a valve as in Claim 2, comprising the steps of transluminally advancing the device into the right atrium and across the atrial septum into the mitral valve.

5. (Original) A method of determining the coaptation axis of a valve as in Claim 1, wherein the positioning step

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comprises positioning a plurality of radiopaque markers within the valve.

6-9 (Cancelled)

10. (Original) A method of determining the coaptation axis of the mitral valve, comprising the steps of:

advancing the distal end of a catheter through the left ventricle to a position adjacent the mitral valve;

deploying a radiopaque target from the distal end; and

observing the alignment of the radiopaque target in response to closing of the mitral valve.

11. (Original) A method as in Claim 10, wherein the deploying step comprises deploying a plurality of radiopaque markers.

12. (Original) A method as in Claim 11, wherein the deploying step comprises deploying a plurality of wires.

13. (Original) A method as in Claim 11, wherein the deploying step comprises deploying an expandable basket.

14. (Withdrawn) A leaflet orientation device, for determining the coaptive axis of a valve, comprising:

an elongate, flexible tubular body, having a proximal end and a distal end; and a conformable radiopaque target carried by the distal end;

wherein the target is conformable in response to closing of the valve to align with the coaptive edges of valve leaflets.

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15. (Withdrawn) A leaflet orientation device as in Claim 14, wherein the conformable target comprises a plurality of wires.

16. (Withdrawn) A leaflet orientation device as in Claim 14, wherein the conformable target comprises a pig tail support.

17. (Withdrawn) A leaflet orientation device as in Claim 14, wherein the conformable target comprises a collapsible basket.

18. (Withdrawn) A leaflet orientation device as in Claim 14, wherein the conformable target is axially movable with respect to the tubular body.

19. (Withdrawn) A leaflet orientation device as in Claim 14, wherein the conformable target comprises a balloon.

20. (Withdrawn) A leaflet orientation device as in Claim 14, wherein the conformable target is movable between a retracted position within the catheter for transluminal advance and an extended position for determining valve leaflet orientation.

21. (Original) A method of determining the coaptation configuration of a valve, comprising the steps of:

providing a conformable target, having a primary axis;

positioning the conformable target in the path of a valve leaflet; and

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visualizing the target along a viewing axis which is transverse to the primary axis, in the vicinity of the valve leaflet.

22. (New) A method of determining the coaptation axis of a valve as in Claim 1, comprising positioning an implant within the coronary sinus in a preselected relationship to the device.

23. (New) A method of determining the coaptation axis of a valve as in Claim 22, wherein the implant is positioned such that it applies pressure on the P2 leaflet of the mitral valve.